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## 27. OCCURRENCE OF *AFISSA DUMERILI* (MULS.)(COCCINELLIDAE : COLEOPTERA) ON CUCURBITS

The genus *Epilachna* belonging to sub-family Epilachinae and family Coccinellidae is phytophagous and harmful to many crops. The species of this genus recorded on cucurbits in India are *Epilachna dodecastigma* Muls. (Fletcher 1921), *E. delesserti* Guer. (Venugopal and David 1972), *E. implicata* (Nayar et al. 1976). During a survey of insect — pests of cucurbits at Kanpur and its suburbs (Uttar Pradesh), *Afissa dumerili* (Muls.), earlier designated as *Epilachna dumerili* by Dieke (1947) was found to damage summer and rainy season cucurbits. The larvae and adults feed exclusively on leaves, flowers and tender fruits of cucurbits. Its principal cucurbit host plant is wild *Cucumis trigonus* Roxb. which serves as disseminating

agent of this species. The crops are required to be resown when the pest occurs in seedling stage. This species has been earlier recorded from Nilgiri Hills, Bombay, Bengal, Assam, Sikkim, the Andaman Islands, Burma and Siam (Kapoor 1950).

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## 28. A NOTE ON PARHOLASPIDAE KRANTZ, 1960 WITH SUPPLEMENTARY DATA FOR *GAMASHOLASPIS BROWNINGI* (BREGETOVA & KOROLEVA, 1960) FROM INDIA

Parholaspids are close allies of macrochelid mites. Formerly parholaspids were grouped into the subfamily Parholaspininae Evans, 1956 under the family Macrochelidae. Bregetova & Koroleva (1960) erected *Evansolaspis*, a new genus to the subfamily Parholaspininae with *Evansolaspis browningi* as the type species. Krantz (1960)

raised Parholaspininae to the status of a family which was later considered as essential by subsequent workers (Marshall 1964, Petrova 1967a). Petrova (1967b) synonymized the genus *Evansolaspis* with *Gamasholaspis* Berlese. Parholaspid mites are little studied in India. They are free-living forms commonly encountered in soil

and litter. They form predominant litter fauna of Tropical Rain Forests in India. A fair collection of parholaspid material has been made during the course of surveys to explore the macrochelid fauna of the forest floor of Namdapha National Park in Arunachal Pradesh in the area of northeast India flanking Burma. A number of known species of parholaspid mites together with many new species await to be reported and described. Here only a report on the habitats and distribution of *Gamasholaspis browningi* (Bregetova and Koroleva) is presented. The collections have been made by me and the material is in the collection of the Zoological Survey of India, Calcutta.

PARHOLASPIDAE Krantz, 1960

*Gamasholaspis* Berlese

***Gamasholaspis browningi*** (Bregetova & Karoleva, 1960)

*Gamasholaspis browningi* occurs widely in India. Bhattacharyya (1977) has redescribed the species based on material collected in the Kumaon Himalaya. The following material has been collected from other geographical regions of India. The

species also has been collected abundantly from Kumaon Himalaya. Since the redescription is based on Kumaon material, the inclusion of collection data further from the region is excluded to avoid unnecessary repetition.

**Material examined:** 2 females, West Bengal : Darjeeling, Botanical Garden, 13. xi.1973, ex decaying grasses and leaves; 1 female, Darjeeling, Labong, Hill Cart Road, 14.xi. 1973, under humus; 1 female, Darjeeling, Hill Card Road, 14.xi.1973, ex decaying plant parts; 4 females, Darjeeling, North Point, 14.xi.1973, ex decaying leaves; Meghalaya: Shillong, Umpling, 14.vi. 1974, ex decaying vegetation; 1 female, Sikkim: near Palace, Gangtok, 10.xi.1973, ex grass heap; 2 females, Gangtok, Sundarigaon, 11.xi.1973, ex cultivated soil mixed with pigdung.

**Distribution in India:** Meghalaya (new record), Sikkim (new record), West Bengal (new record) and Kumaon Hills in Uttar Pradesh.

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#### 29. *MOINA WEISMANNI* ISHIKAWA, 1896 —A NEW RECORD FOR WEST BENGAL (CRUSTACEA : CLADOCERA)

(With eight text-figures)

India has four species of *Moina* recorded among which *Moina micrura* is considered to be one of the eurytopic species occurring in several habitats. *Moina weismanni* Ishikawa was first reported from India at Mandvi (Gujarat State) by

Brehm (1953). There was no subsequent record of this species from India except from Madurai, Tamil Nadu (Venkataraman and Krishnaswamy 1984). During the course of our survey of the wetlands of Hughli District, West Bengal we